



**Public comments from Lisa Savegnago, President**  
Nameplate & Panel Technology, Carol Stream  
*For the Early Childhood Funding Commission*  
*Aug. 18, 2020*

Good afternoon, Commission members: Thank you for the opportunity to express business-community support for your efforts at bolstering young children's care and learning, throughout Illinois.

I'm Lisa Savegnago, and I'm the President of Nameplate & Panel Technology. We're a 34-year-old Carol Stream business that specializes in screen-printed and digitally printed graphic overlays, labels and nameplates.

I'm also a member of the nonprofit, ReadyNation network of more than 2,700 business leaders across the country.

ReadyNation members believe in strengthening our workforce, economy, and productivity through research-proven investments in children. Our chief priorities include preschool, child care, and birth-to-3 services.

Kindergarten-readiness data indicate the importance of these programs — not to mention the significance of your own efforts to reinforce them.

For instance, only one in four Illinois kindergarteners is entering school fully ready in all three of the learning areas studied: math, literacy, and social-emotional development.

These are precisely the basic skills that young people will need for entering the workforce someday. Their future employers and managers will be looking for these abilities 20 years from now, every bit as much as their kindergarten teachers seek them today.

Simply put, our economy can't run without good early childhood programs. And while the COVID pandemic has made that clearer than ever now, we know the main challenges to these programs are not new.

They are longstanding problems, and they include funding that is inadequate, inequitable and too often unstable.

So, your work — pointing the way to long-needed improvements in early childhood programs — is incredibly important. Not just to the kids and families you'll be helping, but to our business climate and economy.

Thank you, and we look forward to helping to put your forthcoming recommendations to good use.